Sad and dreadful News FROM New-England, BEING

A True Relation of the Barbarous Cruelty lately committed by the *Spaniards* upon the *Engliſh*.

THE following Relation, being an unqueſtionable Truth, atteſted before the Magiſtrates of *Boſton* in *New-England*; I ſhall not trouble the Reader with any Preface, but Impartially relate the matter of Fact, and be rather contented to deliver leſs then the Truth, then add in the leaſt thereto; as thus,

A Small *Pink*, called *The Bleſſing*, *&c.* belonging to *Boſton* in *New-England*, and bound thither, ſet Sail from *Jamaica* the 26 of *March*, 1683. having on Board her *David Eaſt* Maſter, *Charles Cretchet* Mate, *Robert Peirce*, *Philip Churchwood*, *Peter Rowland*, *Peter Clement* Mariners; and *John Bath* Paſſenger, the latter having on Board the ſaid *Pink* Goods to the Value of Forty Pound, when the firſt of *April* following we were taken off the Iſle of *Pines*, about four Leagues *Weſtwardly*, and about one hundred Leagues from *Jamaica*, by a half Gally with 36 Oars and Forty Men, which came up with us about Eight of the Clock at Night, and without Haling us, poured in a Valley of ſmall Shot, whereupon we Haled them ſeveral times, but could have no Anſwer, yet they kept Firing upon us a conſiderable time; after which, they left Firing, and Haled us, upon which we anſwered: Then they Commanding us to hoiſt out our Boat; we returned Anſwer, that if they would leave off Firing we would do it; yet they Fired a Valley of Small Shot, which made us fall upon our Bellies, to prevent the danger; then they Haled us again in *Engliſh*, and we anſwered them as before, but being Board and Board, they ſtill commanded us to hoiſt out our Boat; and we being but a Small *Pink*, and having neither Guns, Powder, nor Shot, to make Reſiſtance, as alſo becalmed, having no means to get away, hoiſted out our Boat accordingly, with *John Bath*, and *Peter Rowland* in her; whom they dragged out and filled her with their own Men, and then they Rowed into the Harbour of the Iſle of *Pines*, into which the next Morning about Eight of the Clock they brought our *Pink*, where being at Anchor, they ſent for *John Bath* and *Peter Rowland* from a Board, and put all into the Hold, ſaving the Maſter and his Mate: when having made faſt a Block to the Yard-Arm, and reved a Rope in it; they took the Mate and twiſted a piece of Sea-net about his Head till his Eyes were ready to ſtart out, and then Hanged him up by the two Thumbs, that they might make him confeſs what Money there was a Board, but when they ſaw they could make him confeſs nothing by that Puniſhment, they made faſt the Rope about his Neck, and their Men asked the Commander, whether they ſhould hoiſt him up or not? Then the Captain and the

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reſt of the Officers conſulted amongſt themſelves, whether they ſhould Hang us all or not, but could not agree in the point. At laſt they concluded upon what was more Cruel, (as it appeared by the event) though the over-ruling Providence prevented our utter Deſtruction. For they Commanded the Maſter and five more into the Boat, leaving *Philip Churchwood* on Board; at which time they took into the Boat Seanet, Spun-yarn, ſmall Ropes, and a Shovel, and Rowed us a Shore on the Iſle of *Pines*, and conveyed us among the *Mangrove* Trees; then they took *John Bath* and *Peter Clement*, and carried them a Shore, looking for a convenient place to Hang them; but afterwards changing their Reſolution, they Commanded them to put off their Cloaths, Shirt and all; and then cauſed them to turn their Backs to the Branch of the Tree, and ſpread their Arms abroad, in which poſture they bound their Arms to the Branches, then the forenamed *John Bath* and *Peter Clement* asked them whither they intended to leave them there to be Starved? To which one of them replyed, *Hold your peace leaſt it ſhould be worſe with you, and call upon the* Virgin Mary, *and it may be ſhe may come and looſe you*; To whom they replyed, *We hope our Saviour Chriſt will looſe us out of this Bondage.* Then leaving them bound in that miſerable condition, they took the Maſter and his Mate, and carried them a quarter of a Mile, and then ſerved them in the like manner. And in like manner carrying the other two, *viz. Peter Rowland* and *Robert Peirce* the ſame diſtance beyond each Maſter and his Mate, they bound them likewiſe as they had done the other four; And when they had ſo done, they went to their Veſſel, without the leaſt pity or compaſſion. And ſo it was that they had bound them in ſuch places, that each couple ſtood up to the middle Legg in Water, their Feet touching one another, and their Faces ſo turned that they might behold each others miſerable condition. In this Diſmal and helpleſs condition they continued for ſome time, and muſt have ended their days, had not the Divine Goodneſs out of unbounded Compaſſion, found a way for their deliverance, which was effected in the manner following: About three hours after they were thus bound, and left by the *Spaniards*, expecting nothing leſs then Starving, *John Bath* Eſpied a Stick with a crook at one end, not far from him; whereupon he ſaid to his Companion, *If it pleaſes God we get that Stick into our Hands, it might be a means to work our Deliverance*; and thereupon they tryed to bring it towards them, with their Feet, which in a little time they happily effected; and bore it up betwixt their Leggs, in ſuch manner that at laſt *John Bath* got hold of it in his Hand, with which by degrees they looſened the Knot, (which was upon the bowing of the Arms) and ſhifting it into their Fingers, did by little and little looſen it, until they had quite undone it, and by that means ſet themſelves at Liberty; when having liſted up their Hearts and Hands to Heaven, through whoſe Goodneſs they had obtain'd ſuch unexpected deliverance; they haſtened to unbind the reſt of their Companions, whom they found bemoaning their condition without all hope of Relief, So that this great deliverance ſeemed as Life from Death: Being all ſet at Liberty, their next care was to keep themſelves out of the Sight of thoſe Barbarous Villains from whom they had received ſuch uſage, leaſt meeting with them again, they ſhould Kill them. Yet they had not Travelled above a Mile, e're they eſpied ſome of them upon a high Tree, to diſcover Ships that paſſed that way; which ſo affrighted them, that they run among the Thickets, and loſt one another, not meeting again until the Third Night after, and having met with no water all that time, they were forced to lick the Dew from off the leaves of the Trees: when they had met again, being very weary, they laid themſelves down to reſt, and in the middle of the Night, a great *Allegator* came among them, and caught the Maſters Arm

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in his Mouth, but he and the reſt crying out, it pleaſed God ſo to order it, that the *Allegator* let go his hold, yet ſo that he brought away a great piece of Fleſh, and made ſeveral holes, but by that means it pleaſed God to preſerve them all; after which they got upon a high Tree, and ſate there till it was day, the Maſter ſitting in much pain, as he did alſo the next day, until the day after they met with a *Wild Coney*, which they Killed, and by the help of a Stone, Fleaing of it, they applyed the inſide of the Skin to his Arm, and Eat the Fleſh Raw, which was very Savory and delicious Food at that time; the Night following they thought themſelves very ſecure from the *Allegators*, for they got upon a high Rock: yet even there an *Allegator* came upon them, and geting hold of *Peter Clements* Hand, and hailed him off the Rock, upon which they all cryed out, whereupon the *Allegator* looſed his hold, doing him no great damage; and then they removed to the Trees, as they did before. The Seventh day the *Allegators* were ſo numerous that they greatly affrighted them; but they went amongſt the Rocks and found a little Rain-water in ſeveral holes, and it being *Saturday*, they concluded to raiſe a little Wall about two yards high, to keep the *Allegators* from them; and there they got a few raw Whilks and Crabs, the which was all the Food they had. On the *Monday* following they Travelled again, and found a place where *Turtlers* had been, and there they found a Well, with a Barrel in it, and thereupon conjectured the *Turtlers* uſed to come there; and there they concluded to ſtay, till it pleaſed God to ſend them Relief, or to take them out of the World, for they were weary of their Lives; During their ſtay, they were forced to go three Miles every day upon the Sands, to get Whilks and Crabs to ſupply their Hunger, and then came back again to Drink Water.

On the 13 of *April*, the Mate and two more, *viz.* *Robert Peirce* and *Peter Clement*, made a Raft with ſuch wood as he found in the Iſland, and put to Sea, leaving the Maſter, *John Bath* and *Peter Rowland*.

On the 17 of *April*, they were ſo ſorely oppreſſed with hunger, and ſo extream Faint with heat, not having the leaſt Garment to cover them from the Sun, being at the ſame time grievouſly Infeſted with *Mosketoes*, ſo that they were not able to go to the Rock for Whilks, but were forced to gnaw ſuch dry Bones of *Turtles* as had lain there half a year; in this extremity it pleaſed God to ſend them ſome Relief, for they found a Dead Eele, which they ſuppoſed a *Hern* had dropt, there being many in that Iſland; this they took up, having Skin'd it, divided it amongſt them; it ſeeming to them the moſt pleaſant they had ever taſted.

On the 19 of *April*, the Maſter, *John Bath* and *Peter Rowland*, made a Raft likewiſe, and when they were about to put off, they eſpied two Sails, upon which they committed themſelves to the Mercy of the Seas, endeavouring to get to them, and were took up by them: Theſe Sails were a couple of *Canoo's*, with three Men in each, who kept them 32 days, and then brought them to *Havanah*, and carried them before the Governour, who Examined them, demanding how they came there, upon which they gave him the Relation before-mentioned, yet he cauſed them to be Impriſoned, and kept there 18 days, not allowing them any thing, ſo that had they not had ſome Suſtenance from a few poor *Engliſh* Priſoners that were there, they had been Starved. At length underſtanding that their Ship was in that Harbour, and alſo the Captain and his Company that took them, they Petitioned the Governour, who at laſt granted them their Ship, for they could make no Prize of her, becauſe ſhe had no *Spaniſh* Goods a Board, her Lading being only Cotten, Sugar, and *Moloſſus*) and when he had Examined them one by one, and found them all in a Tale, he ſent an Officer to give them poſſeſſion of their Veſſel, which they found unladen, and no-

thing left a Board her but Ballaſt: upon which they Petitioned to the Governour again for their Lading, but got nothing more then their Sails, and what Cotton, Sugar, and *Moloſſus* were undiſpoſed of.

About the 10 or 11th of *June* following, the hunters had taken up *Robert Peirce* and *Peter Clement*, and brought them into *Havanah*, to the Governour, who Examined them what was become of their Mate, they told him they were five days at Sea upon the Raft, and had only two Crabs to Subſiſt on, and then the Wind drove them upon the ſame Iſland they left, where they wandred up and down a Month, and in their Travels loſt their Mate, who was weak, and not able to Travel; upon which the Governour ſent them alſo a Board, and the Night before they Sailed, the Hunters advertized the Governour they had taken up the Mate alive. But the Governour hurried them away in ſuch haſte, that they could not ſtay to know the certainty thereof. And ſo they proceeded to proſecute their intended Voyage to *Boſton*; being almoſt Starved with Cold before they got thither, each Man having nothing but a Canvas Frock, which the *Turtlers* gave them. But in the Concluſion, through the Goodneſs of God, they came ſafe to *New-England*.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAving thus far prooceeded in this doleful Relation; it will not be amiſs to give you an Account of the uſage of Philip Churchwood, *who was left in the above mentioned* Pink.

Firſt, They threatned to put him a Shore upon an Iſland, and abuſed him very much to oblige him to confeſs what Mony was in the Ship; and when they had done what they could, ſome of them concluded to heave him Over-Board, yet one of the Spaniards *came to him that ſpoke* Engliſh, *and told him, if he would not do as they would have him, he would ſurely be caſt into the* Sea; *and that was, to ſay every thing before the Governour of* Havanah, *that they ſhould command him, viz. That they took the Ship at Anchor, and that all the Men were gone a Shore in the Boat to Hunt on the Iſle of* Pines. *To this* Churchwood *told them, that to ſave his Life, if they would have him ſay the Stones were Silver, he wuold do it, and ſo when they came into* Havanah, *they gave in a Depoſition to the Governour according to what they had told* Churchwood, *and urged him to ſwear to it; but he told the Governour the truth, viz. How they carried the Men a Shore, and what they had done with them he knew not. So the Captain put him in Priſon, and ſwore by the* Croſs, *and by the* Virgin-Mary, *that the firſt* Engliſh, French, *or* Dutchman *that he met with, ſhould never bring Tidings of him thither.*

If any doubt the Truth of this Narration, they may receive further Satisfaction from *Charles Cretchets* Relations living upon *Redriff-Wall*, near *Eaſt-Lane-Stairs*, over-againſt the Sign of the *Pink* (the Mate before mentioned) or of *John Bath* Lodging at the Sign of the *Crown* in *Old Gravel-Lane*, near *Ratcliff-High-way*, who was a Paſſenger on Board the ſaid *Pink*.

Entred according to Order.

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